

KCC 4911
K-C 17,719

REMARKS:

This letter is in response to the Office action dated September 22, 2005.

The Office action requires restriction to one of the following:

Group I - Claims 1-43 and 51-65 drawn to an absorbent article; and

Group II - Claims 44-50 and 66-69.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I corresponding to claims 1-43 and 51-65 drawn to an absorbent article. Claims 44-50 and 66-69 have been cancelled in accordance with applicants' election.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

The Office action further requires election from among the following species:

Species A - reinforcing member comprises parallel strands; and

Species B - reinforcing member comprises non-parallel strands.

Applicants hereby traverse the election requirement on the following grounds: 1) applicants are uncertain as to what is referred to by the Examiner as Species B and 2) as best understood, claims 1, 32 and 51 are each generic to both Species A and Species B.

Species B is stated by the Examiner as being a reinforcing member that comprises non-parallel strands. However, none of the independent or dependent claims from among claims 1-43 and 51-65 recites a reinforcing member comprised of non-parallel strands. Claim 20 does recite a reinforcing member comprised of a first set of substantially parallel strands. The other

KCC 4911
K-C 17,719

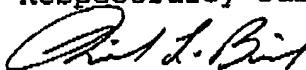
independent claims do not contain such a recitation. Independent claims 1, 32 and 51, each recite a reinforcing member, but none of these claims recite the reinforcing member as having parallel strands or non-parallel strands. Accordingly, none of these claims are limited as such.

Thus, applicants respectfully request clarification from the Examiner as to what election is being requested prior to the Examiner unilaterally withdrawing any additionally claims from the application.

The above notwithstanding, applicants provisionally elect whichever one of Species A and Species B is read on by claim 1.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency in connection with this Amendment A to Deposit Account Number 19-1345 in the name of Senniger Powers.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Bridge, Reg. No. 40.529
SENNIGER POWERS
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

RLB/tmg

VIA FACSIMILE: 571-273-8300